SYNOPSIS.

The story opens in a Confederate tent at a critical stage of the Civil War. Gen-Lee imparts to Capt. Wayne an important message to Longstreet. Accompanied by Sergt. Craig, an old army scout, Wayne starts on his mission. The two, after a wild ride, get within the lines of the enemy. In the darkness, Wayne is taken for a Federal officer who came to keep an appointment, and a young lady on horse-back is given in his charge. She is a northern girl and attempts to escape but falls. One of the horses succumbs and Craig goes through with the dispatches, while Wayne and My Lady of the North are left alone. They seek shelter in a hut and entering it in the dark a huge mastiff attacks Wayne. The girl shoots the brute just in time. The owner of the hut, one Jed Bungay, and his wife appear and soon a barty of horsemen approach. They are led by a man claiming to be Red Lowrie, but Mrs. Bungay discovers him to be a disguised impostor, who proves to be Maj. Brennan, a Federal officer whom the Union girl recognifes. He orders the arrest of Wayne as a spy. While a prisoner Wayne sees files of Confederate pass and knows that Craig has delivered the message. He is brought before Sheridan, who refuses to set him free unless he reveals the secret message. Wayne believes Edith Brennan to be the wife of Maj. Brennan. He is given the choice of revealing the Lee message or of being shot as a spy. He is rescued by Jed Bungay.

CHAPTER XIII .- Continued.

That he meant every word he spoke I felt convinced, and his enthusiasm was contagious. My bloo leaped within me at this call to action; all lethargy fled, and with it every deadening thought of her who had so suddenly woven about me the meshes of her power. False or true, maid, wife, or widow, my duty as a soldier to my commander and the army to which I belonged, blotted out all else. Even as this new rush of determination swept over me, above us there sounded clearly the dashing music of a military band in the strains of a Strauss's waltz, and we could distinguish the muffled shuffling of many feet on the oaken floo, overhead. Caton's chance remark about the great ball to be given that evening by officers of the headquarters staff recurred to my memory.

"That dancing up there will help us, Jed," I said quickly, my mind now active to grasp every detail. "You say there is a chance for escape from your cell? Then give me your hand. and help me to crawl through that hole."

It was a narrow squeeze for a man of my size, yet I crept through without great difficulty, a. . found myself in the dense darkness of a room which, as I judged hastily from feeling about me, was similar in shape and extent to the one i. which I had been confined. Bungay, however, permitted me little time for exploration. Grasping me firmly by the arm, and feeling his way along the wall, he groped across to the other side.

"There's a mighty big stone chimbly comes down yere, Cap," he whispered. "An' ther openin' ter take out soot an' ashes is up thar, jist b'low ther fluer. It's a sheet-iron pan, I reckon, ther way it feels; an' it must be thar they put a nigger in t.. clean ther chimbly whin it gits stuffed up. I could git up thar alone, but I couldn't c no work, but thet thar pan ought ter cum out all right. Dew ye think ye cud hol' me up. Cap? I'm purty durn heavy."

I smiled in the darkness at the little fellow's egotism, and lifting him as upon my shoulder. He struggled a moment to steady himself against the wall, and then I could feel him tugging eagerly at something which appeared to yield slowly to his efforts As he worked, a dense shower of dust and soot caused me to close my eyes. "She's a comin' all right," he said.

cheerfully, puffing with his exertions, "but I reckon as how thi: chimbiy ain't bin cleaned out since ther war begun. Hold up yer right han', Cap, an' git a blame good grip on her, fer she's almighty full, an'll wanter go down sorter easy like"

I did as he suggested, bracing myself to meet his movements, as he stood straining on my shoulders, and in another moment I had succeeded in lowering the large sheet-iron pan silently to the floor.

"Roon 'nough yere fer two men ter oncet," chuckled my companion, in rare delight "The ch'ef in silence strode before.' Yere goes."

His weight left my shoulders; there

"Lift up yer hands, Cap; dig in yer toes on ther stones, an' we'll begin our vi'ge."

He grasped my wrists with a strength which I had no conception the little fellow possessed. There was

a moment's breathless struggle, and equirmed through the opening, and lay panting on the flat slabs which composed the foot of the great funnel. To afford me more room Bungay had gone up a little, finding foot-lodgment upon the uneven s.ones of which the chimne, was constructed. For a moment we rested thus motionless, both breathing heavily and listening to the music and shuffling of feet now almost

The noise, which was strong and continuous, rendered discovery from any misstep highly improbable, and as

eron a level with our heads.

delay was dangerous neither of us was

disposed to linger long. "Be ye all ready, Cap?" questioned

Bungay, bending his head down. "Fer if ye be, I'm a goin' up."

"All right," I answered, struggling to my knees in the narrow space; creeping steadily upward. It soon be-"only take it slow, Jed. I'm a trifle bigger man than you, and this is rather close quarters."

"Wal, yes, maybe a matter of a poun' er two," he retorted, and the next moment I could hear him scraping his way upward, feeling for foothold upon the irregular layers of stone. I followed, pressing my knees firmly against the rough wall, and trusting more to my hands than feet for security against falling. There was evidently a fireplace of some kind on the first floor, with a considerable opening leading from it into the chimney we were scaling, for as Jed slowly passed, I could perceive a sudden gleam of light streaming across his face from the glare of the lamps within. He glanced anxiously that way, but did not pause in his steady climb upward

A moment later I came opposite that same beam of radiance, and cautiously peered down the sloped opening that led to the disused fireplace. All I could perceive was a pair of legs, evidently those of a cavalry officer, judging from the troad yellow stripe down the seam of the light-blue trousers, and the high boots ornamented with rowel spurs. He stood leaning carelessly against the mantel, talking with some one just beyond the range of my vision.

At that moment the music ceased suddenly, and afraid to proceed until it should strike up again, I braced r.yself securely on a projecting stone and bent my head over the orifice until I could catch a portion of the conversation being carried on by my unconscious neighbors.

"No," said the cavalryman, gruffly, and apparently in reply to some previous question, "the fellow was most devilish obstinate; wouldn't tell the first thing; even a threat of treating him as a spy and hanging him outright proved of no avail. But Sheridan's theory is that Lee has ordered Longstreet to hit our rear, while he makes a direct attack in front. That's why the 'old man' proposes to get in his work first, and we march at daylight to form connection with Hancock. By Jove, Chesley, but that woman in black over there with Follans' 'e is the handsomest picture I've seen south of the line Mark how her eyes sparkle, and how prettily the light gleams in her hair. Who is she, do you chance to know?"

"Yes," lisped the other, languidly, "met her at breakfast, headquarters, this morning. Deuced pretty and all that, mighty good style, too, but taken, old man. She's Brennan's."

"What! not Major Brennan?" in surprise. "Why, he's always posed as a bachelor among our fellows."

"Don't know anything bout that, dear boy," indifferently, "but the lady came in with him yesterday, was introduced to the crowd of us as Mrs. Brennan, and he called her Edith. Deuced nice name, Edith. As Brennan has shown such poor taste as to I might a child, poised him lightly be absent to-night, I am inclined to give a little of my time to his lady. Far and away the prettiest thing here. Well, so long, Somers; see you in the morning. I'm going to give the fair Edith a whirl."

> The cavalry legs shifted the : position; the band resumed its functions, and in the renewed activity and noise I began again the tollsome climb, my mind now a bewildered .haos between my plain duty to Lee and my nearly uncont. ollable desire to meet once i ore the woman who was dancing in the room below.

> The little mountaineer, as active as a cat, and not especially hampered by lack of room in which to work, was well above me by this time. The chimney, acting as a tube, brought down to me from time to time the slight noise of his climbing, varied by an occasional exclamation or comment, but I could perceive no other evidence of his presence. Above, all

was as black as the grave. "Holy smoke!" he ejaculated, probwas a slight scramble, another shower ably unaware that he was giving utterof dirt, then the sound of his voice ance to his thoughts. "That was a sharp rock! Durn if thar's a inch c' skin left on my knee. Ough! stop thet! who's got hold o' my fut?"

"Hush your racket, you little fool," I said angrily. "Do you want the whole Yankee army to trap us here like rats? I cannot get up this chimn . any further; it is growing too small to permit my body to pass.

"Is thet so, Cap?" he asked anxious-"Whut be ye goin' ter dew 'bout 117"

I made no answer for a moment; 1 was groping about in the darkness of our narrow quarters to see i' I could determine exactly where we were. "How high is this house, Jed, do you

know?" "Three stories an' attic." "How far up are we?"

I lowered myself silently, and felt along the stones until I located the dimensions.

first flure."

opening, and roughly measured its "I shall have to risk crawling out here, Jed," I said finally, "for I shall surely stick fast if I go up another

ten feet. Do you suppose you can

squeeze through to the top?" "I reckon I kin," he returned calm-"But hadn't we better stick tergether, Cap?"

"No," I answered firmly. "You go on, and one of us must get through to Lee. Don't mind me at all; get down from the roof as best you can. If I am caught it will be all the more important that you should succeed."

"'T is done-'I thank thee, Roderick, for the word; it nerves my heart, it steels my sword."

Even as he spoke I could hear him came evident that his progress was growing slower, more difficult. Then all sounds above me ceased, and I knew he must have attained the roof in safety.

CHAPTER XIV.

I Became a Colonel of Artillery. My own situation at this moment was too critical, too full of peril and uncertainty, to afford opportunity for moralizing over Bungay's chances of escape. Only one possibility lay be-

whar ye are that I stuck my fut ting just beneath the landing, whis- have supposed the very devil himself down an openin'. Reckon 't was 'nothpered eagerly into the attentive ear er fireplace, like thet one on ther of a pronounced blonde who shared the broad carpeted step with him.

I drew back noiselessiy, to figure out the situation and determine what was best for me to attempt. It would the stand. At the end, however, I be sheer madness to venture upon a passage to the front door, clad as I that with good luck I should run the was in travel-worn gray uniform; to rush through that iam was impossible If I were to wait until the dance was concluded the later hours of the night might indeed yield me somewhat clearer passage, yet it was hardly probable that the house, used as I knew it to be for a military prison, would be left unguarded. Besides, such delay must absolutely prevent my getting beyond the Federal picket lines before daybreak, and would hence render valueless the news I sought to bear to Lee.

I moved to the only window and glanced out; it opened upon the back of the house and presented a sheer drop to the ground. At the slight noise of the moving sash a sentry standing at the corner glanced up suspiciously. Evidently each side of leck, Washington, D. C." the great building was abundantly protected by patrols.

them out; they composed the new uni-

was coming down.

It took me nearly a quarter of an hour to get myself tolerably clean, and I could not have done that had I not used some grease that was upon stepped back from the glass confident gantlet safely.

Just as I prepared to step forth a new thought occurred to me-who was I? If questioned, as was highly probable, how could I account for my presence? Who should I pretend to be! I turned over the mass of papers lying before me on the table. They were mostly accounts and detailed orders about which I cared nothing, but finally my search was rewarded by the discovery of a recent army list. I ran my eyes hastily down the artillery assignments-Barry, Sommers, Fitzmorris, Sloan, Rellly. Ah, there at last was exactly what I wanted-"Patrick L. Curran, Colonel Sixth Ohio Light Artillery, McRobert's Division, Thomas's Corps, assigned special service, staff Major-General Hal-

"Curran, Sixth Ohio"-good; and the other? I glanced again at the open Something had to be attempted, and order. "Culbertson, Fourteenth Pennat once. The room I was in bore un- sylvania." I would remember those questionable evidence of recent occu- names, and with a jaunty confidence pancy, and at any moment might be in my success, born of thorough re-entered. My searching eyes fell preparation, I stepped to the open upon the articles of clothing carelessly door and strode forth into the brilfolded over the chair-back. I picked liantly lighted hall. Barring the single up the garments one by one and took accident of encountering a possible acquaintance in the throng below, I felt fully capable of deceiving his Satanic Majesty himself.

CHAPTER XV.

At the Staff Officers' Ball.

The young officer glanced up Lastily at sound of approaching footsteps, and rose to his feet to permit of my passage. He wore the full dress uniform of an artilleryman, and his evident surprise at my presence made me realize the necessity of addressing

"Lieutenant," I asked courteously, resting one hand easily upon the balustrade, "could you inform me if General Sheridan and those members of the staff who accompanied him down the lines this afternoon have yet returned?"

"They have not, sir." "Ah, I was in hopes they might have arrived by this time."

I bowed to them both, and passed slowly down the wide stairway, several couples rising as I drew near to permit of my passage. The lower hall was very comfortably filled with figures moving her, and there in converse, or occupying seats pressed close against the walls. The greater portion were attired in uniforms of the various branches of service vet I observed not a few civilian suits, and a considerable number of women. some wearing the next dress of the army nurse, others much more elaborately at ired-daughters of the neighborhood, probably, with a sprinkling of wives and sisters of the soldiery Guards, leaning upon their muskets, stood in statuesque poses on either side of the main entrance, while the wide archway, draped with flags, openng into the ballroom, reve inspiring glimpse of swiftly revolving figures in gay uniforms and flashing skirts. Over all floated the low, swinging music of the band.

A fat, good-natured-looking man of forty, an infantry major, but wearing staff decorations, and evidently of ficiating in the capacity of floor-man ager, after whispering a word in the ear of another of the sa: 3 kind beside the ballroom door, hastily pushed his way through the laughing throng directly toward me.

"Good-evening, Colonel," he said bowing deeply. "Your face is not familiar to me, but you will permit me to introduce myself-Major Monsoon. of General Sheridan's staff."

I accepted the fat, shapeless hand he extended, and pressed it warmly. "I was just meditating a retreat, Major, when you appeared," I replied the garments amid that crush below, frankly. "For I fear my face is equaland he should recognize them, what ly unknown to all others present. Indeed. I feel like a cat in a strange garret, and hesitated to appear at all My only excuse for doing so was a chanced to fall upon an open paper. promise made Colonel Culbertson previous to his being ordered out on duty. I am Coionel Curran, of the Sixth Ohio, but at present serving on the staff of General Halleck at Wash-

The Major's round, red face glowed

ington."

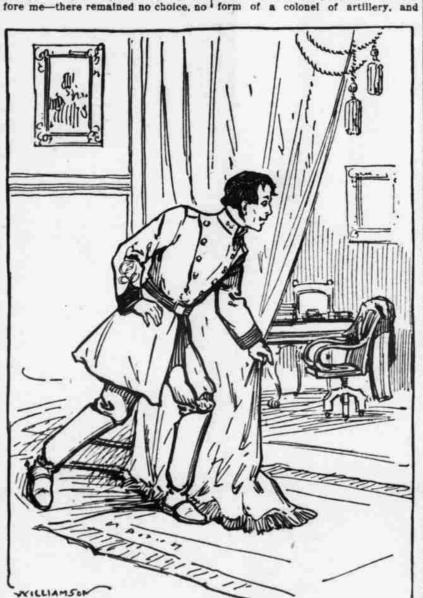
with welcome. "Extremely pleased to meet you, indeed," he exclaimed eagerly, "and irg. Will you kindly step this way?"

As we slowly elbowed our way forward, all desire to escape from the ordeal fied, and I assumed the risks of the masquerade with the reckless audscity of my years. Before we reached the ballroom my conductor, his fat countenance fairly beaming with cordiality, had stopped at least twenty times to present me to various military titles, and I had accepted innumerable invitations without in the least knowing who gave them, or where they were to be fulfilled. Finally, however, we broke through the massed ring, and succeeded in reaching the tall individual in spectacles to whom the Major had spoken previous to seeking me, and I learned through the introduction which followed that I was in the presence of Brigadler-General Carlton, chief of staff.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Horrible!

What's the difference between as risbman frozen to death and a High ander on a mountain peak? One is stilt with the cold, the other onid with the kill-Exchange.



I Saw No Other Signs of Human Occupancy.

necessity for planning. It was pure | vere resplendent with bright red facluck which pries open most doors of life, and it was upon luck alone I must rely now. I have often wondered since how I ever succeeded in squeezing my body through that narrow opening into the empty fireplace without at least knocking over something during the difficult passage. But I did manage, working my way down slowly, creeping inch by inch like a snake, carefully testing each object I touched in the darkness for fear of its proving loose, until I finally lay stretched at full length upon what was evidently, from its feeling, a

carpet of unusually fine texture. The room proved to be an inner one and unlighted, a bedchamber, as I soon determined, for my outstretched hands encountered the posts of a bed. Then a slight gust of air partially swept aside a hanging curtain, which rustled like silk, and I caught a brief glimpse of the adjacent parlor. It was likewise unillumined, but the door leading into the front hall stood ajar, and through that opening there poured a stream of radiance, together with the incessant hum of many voices in animated conversation, the deep blare of the band, with the ceaseless

movement of dancing feet. Satisfying myself by sense of touch that the bed was unoccupied, for I was far too experienced a soldier to leave an enemy in my rear, I crept cautiously forward to the intercepting curtain, and drawing it aside took careful survey of the outer apartment. It was a large and handsomely furnished room, a polished mahogany writing-table littered with papers occupying a prominent position against the farther wall. A swivel chair stood beside it, and across its back hung what appeared to be a suit of clothing. I saw no other signs of hu-

man occupancy. Convinced that the apartment was deserted, and discovering no different means of egress, I crossed the room on tiptoe, and peered cautiously out into the hall. It was not a pleasing prospect to one in my predicament. The lower portion, judging from the incessant hum of voices, was filled with people, who were either unable to find place within the crowded ballroom, or else preferred greater retirement for conversation Even the wide stairway had been partially pre-"Bout halfway long ther third empted, a young lieutenant, as I lieutenant and the blonde young lady story. I reckon; must be list blow judged from his shoulder-straps, all upon the stairs—surely they would

ings and a profusica of gold braid. With all my soul I loathed the thought of disguise, and especially the hated uniform of the enemy. It was repugnant to every institut of my being. and would certainly mean added degradation and danger in the event of capture.

Yet I saw no other way. Sheridan, Brennan, Caton, the three who would certainly recognize mo on sight, I was assured were absent, although they might return at any moment. The greater reason for haste, the less excuse for delay. But if I should chance to run foul of the rightful owner of then? I stood close beside the writing-table as I revolved these considerations rapidly in mind, and my eye It was an official order, bearing date a: 5 p. m. that same day, commanding Colonel Culbertson to move his battery at once down the Kendallville pike, and report to Brigadier-General Knowls for assignment to his brigade. avidently the new dress uniform had been carefully brushed and laid out to be worn at the ball that evening; the sudden receipt of this order had you may be sure of a cordial greetcaused the owner to depart hastily in his service dress, vigorously expressing his feelings, no doubt, while his servant, now enjoying liberty below stairs, had neglected to pack up his master's things.

This knowledge was the straw which decided me; I would chance it. Hastily I drew on the rich blue and red over my old gray, adding the dress sword I had discovered in a closet, and then, wondering curiously what sort of figure I might cut in all these fine habiliments, sought a glance at myself within a mirror hanging upon the bedroom wall. Faith! but it was God's mercy that I did!

Such a face as grinned at me from ti at glass, peering over the high-cut, decorated collar, would surely have reated a genuine sensation in those rooms below. Serious as my situation was, I laughed at the thought of it until tears ran down my cheeks, leaving white streaks the full length of them; for no chimney-sweep in the full tide of his glorious career was ever worse sooted and begrimed. I thought of the elegantly dressed



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HIS VOCATION.



"I suppose you'll be an agriculturist when you grow up?" "No'm. I'm jest goin' to work on this farm, that's all."

By Way of Excuse. "Youngleigh has some singular ideas."

"What, for instance?" "Well, he says it is mean to profit by other people's experience after they've been at all the trouble and expense of collecting it."

Our idea of nothing to beat is the fellow who brags that he begins where we leave off!

